

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 065175

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/ S- O:: MPENDLETON

APPROVED BY: S/ S- O: NEWLIN

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R 080501 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 065175

EXDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC APRIL 2, 1973 FROM
PHNOM PENH IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 3066

EXDIS

SECSTATE PASS SECDEF, CJCS, AND CINCPAC

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: ARCLIGHT IN CAMBODIA

1. OVER THE WEEKEND WE HAVE BEEN PICKING UP IMPRECISE
REPORTS OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES FROM ARCLIGHT.

2. ONE REPORT, FROM THE SRANG MOUNTAIN AREA WEST OF
ROUTE 3, HAS QTE MANY PEOPLE KILLED UNQTE, AND SPEAKS
OF BLOOD RUNNING OUT OF THE EARS AND NOSES OF THE VICTIMS.
ANOTHER, APPARENTLY FROM SAANG ON THE MIDDLE BASSAC,
RELATES HOW A PROCESSION OF VILLAGERS HOLDING A FUNERAL
AT NIGHT FOR A DEAD BONZE WAS ANNIHILATED BY ARCLIGHT
IN WHAT IS SPOKEN OF AS QTE A VERITABLE BLOODBATH UNQTE.
A THIRD SPEAKS OF FURTHER CASUALTIES IN THE SAANG AREA.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 065175

3. THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS HERE ALSO HAS THESE STORIES.

4. WE HAVE HAD THE FOLLOWING STRIKES ON THE SAANG MOUNTAIN AND SAANG AREAS:

COORDINATES	TOT
SRANG MOUNTAIN	
VT 570546	182118 MAR
VT 585545	250250 MAR
VT 563551	250430 MAR

SAANG (VICINITY)	
WT 0 87620	251912 MAR
WT 085597	260445 MAR
VT 940589	262206 MAR
WT 091554	270230 MAR
VT 951598	271841 MAR
WT 11452	290050 MAR
WT 016513	290150 MAR
WT 013524	290250 MAR

5. FURTHER REVIEW OF THESE BOXES CONFIRMS THAT THEY ARE CONSISTENT WITH ROE ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US FROM CARTOGRAPHY OR US FAC VR. MAPS SHOW THAT THE THREE SRANG MOUNTAIN BOXES COME WITHIN 1000 METERS OF VILLAGES. HOWEVER, FAC VR HAD NOTED NO RPT NO CIVILIAN ACTIVITY.

6. THIS AFTERNOON AN EMBASSY OFFICER MET WITH A GROUP OF REFUGEES FROM SOUTHERN CAMBODIA WHO RECENTLY PASSED THROUGH SAANG. THIS GROUP AT LEAST SHOWED NO CONCERN FOR STRIKES IN THAT VICINITY.

7. WE WOULD NONETHELESS ACCEPT THAT THE REPORTS OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES ARE PROBABLY TRUE TO SOME DEGREE. WE ARE FOLLOWING THIS UP.

8. I WISH TO RECONFIRM TO YOU THAT ARCLIGHT STRIKE REQUESTS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE CLOSEST SCRUTINY FROM THIS MISSION FOR CONSISTENCY WITH ROE AND UTILITY. I KNOW THE SAME IS TRUE OF COMUSSAG. IT IS SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE TO USE HEAVY ORDNANCE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WITHOUT SOME
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PAGE 03 STATE 065175

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

9. I AM PASSING A COPY OF THIS MESSAGE SEPARATELY TO
COMUSSAG.
SWANK UNQUOTE ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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